

12 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR**SUBJECT: Reply to Komer's Personnel Levy**

1. As you are aware, I have set up an informal committee to work out the play of the Agency's hand in the pacification reorganization exercise. This committee includes Mr. FitzGerald, Mr. Colby (or, in his absence, [redacted] Mr. Bammerman and Mr. Clarke.

2. Attached is a draft reply to Mr. Komer which has been coordinated with and approved by all of these gentlemen and also by Col. White. We all agree, and feel strongly, that:

(a) The Agency simply can not provide any more operations officers to the Porter activity other than the ones already turned over and those included on our list.

(b) To protect our own investment, however, we should provide enough support and administrative talent to ensure that the operation is run properly and in a manner not adverse to our interests.

(c) We have got to work toward getting this activity structured as a single project in Vietnam and given a single administrative patron in Washington. If this does not come to pass, we will find that we will be faced with a continuous series of messy problems and find ourselves saddled with indefinite, open-ended financial, support and personnel commitments.

(d) This exercise is critical not only because of its intrinsic importance in relation to the Vietnam problem but, even more, because over the years and decades ahead the Agency is certain to be faced with similar situations in other countries. The precedents, procedures and ground rules worked out here for Vietnam will either help us or haunt us whenever and wherever we face this situation again.

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25X1 3. Saigon's 0461 and [] make it obvious that there is a considerable divergence between our thinking and that of Mr. Hart and Mr. Colby. I am now coordinating a cable to be sent in your name which will explain our decision to them (assuming that you endorse it). Their points have merit, but Saigon 0461 fights the problem in a way that is not in the Agency's long-term interests.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachment

Distribution

0 - The Director

1 - []/ER

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